April 5, 2011

MEMORANDUM #2011-57

TO: **Hampton Roads Transportation Operations (HRTO) Members & Guests**

BY: **Robert B. Case, Principal Transportation Engineer**

RE: **HRTO Subcommittee Meeting – April 12, 2011**

An HRTO Subcommittee meeting will be held from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at **VDOT's HRBT Training Center**, 410 S. Curry St., Hampton.
(not HRBT Admin. Bldg.; see attached map or call 777-8819 for directions)

1.   **Public Comment Period**

2.   **Summary Minutes of February 8, 2011 Meeting**

Minutes of the last HRTO meeting are attached.

Attachment 2

Recommended Action: Approval

3.   **FHWA's Road Weather Management Program**

Roemer Alfelor (FHWA) will summarize FHWA's Road Weather Management Program, including:

- the Clarus Initiative – a federal effort to develop an integrated surface transportation weather observation data management system

- the possibility of local TMC's providing weather data to Clarus

- how local TMC's can process weather information, e.g. from Clarus

4.   **Opticom's Central Management Software**

A representative from Global Traffic Technologies (GTT)—the manufacturer of Opticom priority control systems used on local traffic signals—will summarize Opticom's Central Management Software which—according to GTT literature—can help the user manage, monitor, and maintain system performance from the traffic center.

5. **Future HRTO Agenda Items**

    In the past, the HRTO has 1) conducted information sharing/receiving, 2) established collaboration among localities, and 3) advised TTAC/HRTPO on operational issues. Given the new leadership of the subcommittee, at the last meeting staff requested that each HRTO member compile a list of up to three operational issues they would like HRTO to address in future efforts/agendas. HRTO chairperson Dan Rydzewski (Norfolk) will lead a discussion of any issues subcommittee members mention at the meeting.

6. **Old Business/New Business**

7. **FYI**

    The January and February newsletters of Virginia Beach's TMC are attached.

    Attachments 7-A and 7-B

8. **Next Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items**

    The next HRTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Regional Building, 723 Woodlake Dr., Chesapeake.

    Recommended Action: Suggest agenda items which will help HRTO fulfill its information sharing/receiving, collaboration, and advisory roles.

RBC/kg

Attachments

HRTO Subcommittee:

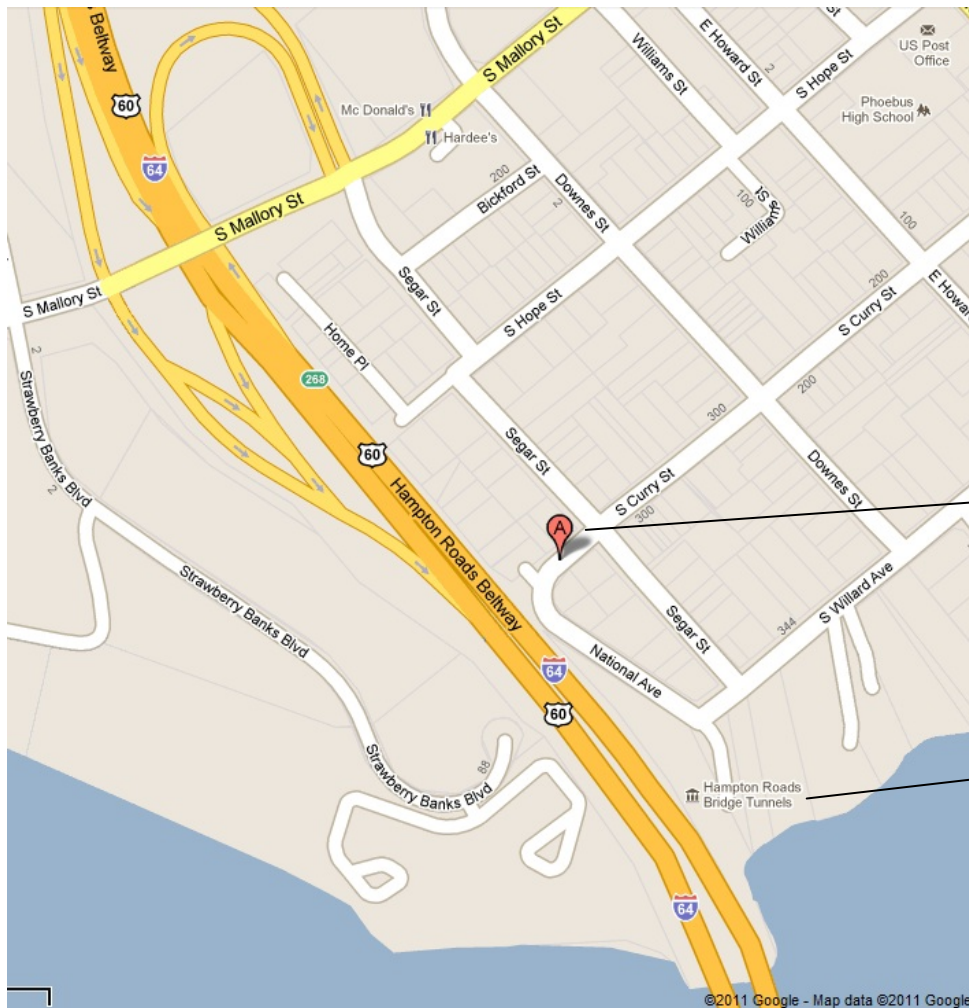|	
Kevin Abt, VPA	Jacqueline M. Kassel, P.E., NN
Stephen R. Boyce, VDOT	Stephen P. Kopczynski, YK
Charles Burch, JC	Robert E. Lewis, P.E., SU
Alesia Cain, HRT	Ric Lowman, P.E., VB
Kamlesh Chowdhary, HRT	Tal Luton, JC
Randy Cooper, NN	Daniel A. Rydzewski, P.E., NO
Michael A. Corwin, P.E., VDOT	W. Leon Sisco, WATA
Kevin Eppley, CH	Eric Stringfield, VDOT
Jeffrey Florin, VPA	Ed Taylor, SU
Stephany Hanshaw, VDOT	Gary E. Walton, P.E., CH
Richard Hartman, PO	Martin Willson, HA
Franklin Hickman, VB	John Yorks, HA

HRTO Invited Guests:

Joel Acree
Beck Barfield, PO
Jocelyn K. Bauer
R. Stephen Best, Sr., CH
Tim Breslin, CH
Stephen C. Brich, VDOT
Chad Brooks
Robert Buckham
Leah Bush, VDH
A. Call, HA
Jimmy Carter
Mecit Cetin, ODU
Chief Chesapeake PD, CH
Jonathan Clark, Open Roads
Dwayne Cook, VDOT
Marc Copeland
Steven Cover, VB
Scott Cowherd, VDOT
William P. Dent (WM Fire)
Leon Dextradeur, VB
Doug Draper, CH
Richard Drumwright, WATA
Michael Felix, NO
Rusty Fitzhugh, VDOT
Eric Fly, Seamcorp
Chris Francis, VDOT
Robert K. Gey, VB
George Glazner, NO
James Gray, HA
Mike Haas, Open Roads
Cynthia Hall, NO
John Hendrickson, PBQ&D
Jeffrey B. Holland, CBBTC
Robert T. Holloway, Jr., PQ
John Horner, Open Roads
Chuck Houck, NO
Amanda Jacobs, JC
Daniel E. Jenkins, P.E., FHWA

Ken Jennings, DMV
Alan Jensen, P.E., NAVY
Kenneth L. Jones, NN
John Kaoudis, NN
Asad Khattak, Ph.D, ODU
Raymond Khoury, VDOT
Frank Kowaleski, DMV
Charles Lavene, Norfolk Airport
Stephen D. Little, Transdyn
Jake McCoury, VSP
Jim McCullough, Transdyn
Joe Moore, NN
Jessie Neal, VDOT
Mark Outlaw, SU
Shawn Pillow, VSP
Daniel Plott, VSP
Earnest Poole, VSP
Eric Reddeck, CH
Matthew Riethmiller
Ellen Roberts, PQ
Iris Rodriguez, FHWA
Safety Officer, NN
Mark Sawyers
Dave M. Seale, VIT
Tanya Showers, Army
Bill Smith
Mark Solesky, CH
Leticia Soto, NAVY
Gregory S. Staylor, CH
David C. Sullivan, HRT
Chris Swartz, HA
Linda Taylor, VDH
Ted Tynes, VSP
Charles E. Vidrine, NAVY
Scott S. Williams, NN
Jeff Wise, NO
Nick Wooten, HA

Cc: Sam Belfield
      Rob Case
      Dwight Farmer
      Brian Miller

Keith Nichols
Camelia Ravanbakht
Stephanie Shealey

Meeting Location: VDOT's HRBT Training Center, 410 S. Curry St., Hampton

YES

NO

Hampton Roads Transportation Operations (HRTO) Subcommittee
DRAFT Minutes
February 8, 2011 Meeting
The Regional Boardroom, The Regional Building
Meeting Start Time: 9:32 AM called by Dan Rydzewski
Meeting Adjourned Time: 11:35 AM called by Dan Rydzewski

_____

List of Attendees

Keith Nichols, HRTPO
Daniel Rydzewski, City of Norfolk
Franklin Hickman, City of Virginia Beach
Rob Case, HRTPO
Stephanie Shealey, HRTPO
Martin Willson, City of Hampton
Chris Swartz, City of Hampton
Leon Sisco, WATA
John Hendrickson, PB
Tim Rayner, PB
Jason Souders, City of Suffolk
Beau Womble, City of Suffolk
Richard Hartman, City of Portsmouth
Eric Stringfield, VDOT
Sam Belfield, HRTPO
Ric Lowman, City of Virginia Beach
Mike Haas, Open Roads
Steve Kopczynski, York County
Ed Taylor, City of Suffolk
Jackie Kassel, City of Newport News
Randy Cooper, City of Newport News
Kamlesh Chowdhary, Hampton Roads Transit

Public Comment Period

- o   No public speakers.

Summary Minutes of December 14, 2010 Meeting

- o   No modifications of the December 14, 2010 minutes. Minutes were approved.

MS² Traffic Count Database System

A presentation was given by Ben Chen with Midwestern Consulting, LLC, on the Transportation Data Management System (TMS). MS² proposes that the region purchase this software so that any local cities can process counts like Virginia Beach is doing.

- o   Key features:
    - ▪   Web-based, use of Google maps and ArcGIS, compatibility with many traffic counters, integration with other transportation data.
    - ▪   Graphs, lists and reports can be viewed, printed or exported.
    - ▪   Built-in data validation
    - ▪   Imports data easily
    - ▪   Web site – http://www.ms2soft.com
- o   Questions
    - ▪   How often is Virginia Beach uploading data to this system? How easy is it to do?
      Frank Hickman: On a daily basis and very easy to upload
    - ▪   What measures are in place to validate data/errors?
      Frank Hickman: Virginia Beach screens all data, reviews data from previous years for consistency

Future HRTO Agenda Items

Given the new leadership of the subcommittee, staff is requesting that each HRTO member compile a list of up to three operational issues they would like HRTO to address in future efforts/agendas. Turn your list in at conclusion of meeting or email to Rob Case at rcase@hrpdcva.gov.

Rob Case shared with staff what is being developed for TPO work program for next fiscal year (starting July 1st). TPO staff plans to update crash data report, continue military transportation needs study, assist historic triangle with transportation portion of comprehensive plan update, and (through this committee) help VDOT update the ITS strategic plan. He suggested that members contact him with any additional work requests.

Miovision – Video Collection and Turning Movement Counts

A representative from Miovision presented a demo of their product. The potential of establishing a regional partnership for use of Miovision equipment was discussed. With this software, one can collect video, upload for analysis and get detailed results.

- o   Key features:

Attachment 2

- Black box recording device attaches to signal, telephone pole and light poles. Portable, easy to use, and secure.
- Built in LCD screen, recharge receptacle, SD memory, can set scheduling/sleep mode.
- Upload traffic data online at Trafficdataonline.com.
- Can export excel spreadsheet with data.

  o Questions:
    - What are newer capabilities?
      - *Turning movement counts – portable, automated system for TMCs*
    - What if large trucks block view of other vehicles?
      - *Recording device can be mounted high to avoid that.*
    - Do you offer regional support?
      - *A three year warranty is open for discussion.*

Pending VDOT Statewide RFP for Video Hosting and Traffic Data Archiving

Ken Earnest (VDOT, Acting Division Administrator, Operations and Security) presented information concerning replacing current contract for video hosting and current contract for traffic data archiving. Currently, VDOT manages multiple contracts: TrafficLand for video, PBS&J for 511 phone service, and Redmon Group for 511 website hosting.

Proposed solution would be to manage all data and video distribution through a single vendor.

  o Benefits:
    - Replace all three contracts with one contract
    - Minimize costs by allowing data resale, sponsorships
  o Request for Information (RFI) issued October 2010.
    - Met with representatives from 17 responding firms
  o Questions:
    - When will contract be in place?
      - *Can take two to three months to negotiate.*
    - Will cities be allowed to use the new contract?
      - *Contract will be usable by cities to make city-owned video footage available to public.*
  o Ken to return to HRTO to report after contract has been awarded.

Old Business/New Business

  o Opticom codes
    - Frank Hickman suggested that he set up a meeting with first responders in Va. Beach to discuss.

- The idea of forming a subcommittee for this topic was discussed.
- Coding schemes must be identified.
- Are there other funding sources which could be used to bring equipment up to date.
- Bring back for discussion in April.

Next Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

The next HRTO meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2011 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

- A site for the meeting is needed as Regional Building meeting rooms are booked.
  - Possibly Sandy Bottom Park.
  - Talk to VDOT and see if training facility near HRBT is available.
- Frank Hickman advised that Mr. Paul Pisano (FHWA) will come to the next meeting and give a presentation on road weather information.
- Dan R. suggested inviting David Graham (VDOT, Central Office) to discuss incident management.
- Steve K. suggested discussing guidelines on lane number designation. Dan R. suggested incorporating this topic with above incident management topic.
- Eric Stringfield asked for a status update on the total stations funded via CMAQ.

Attachment 2

January-2011

I. Signal Retiming Accomplished/Installed/Verified
This topic involves the resolving signal timing issues at certain intersections based on citizen suggestions and staff observations.

1. Laskin Road Gateway Project intersections
2. Indian River Road and West Neck Road
3. Laskin Road & Hilltop East Shopping Center
4. Indian River Road & Reon Drive

II. Significant Meeting Hosted or Attended

1. **January 19, 2011 Virginia Tech Tour of the Traffic Management Center**
   Virginia Tech has been contracted to develop the City's Energy Assurance Plan. A team led by Lori Herrick (City's Energy Management Administrator) and Mark Marchbank (City's Deputy Coordinator of Emergency Management) visited the TMC to discuss with staff how energy loss affects operations of the TMC.

2. **January 12, 2011 – Public Works Snow Event After Action Meeting**
   This meeting was to discuss the events of the December 25th snow storm. Issues discussed were: GIS coverage maps/NIMS training/ Snow Event training/WEB EOC.

III. Community Service Event - Boy Scout Troop 179 at the TMC
On Sunday, January 9, 2011 TMC Staff hosted 15 members of Boy Scout Troop 179 and 6 parents. The scouts were working on their Engineering Merit badge. They spent the afternoon in the TMC Conference Room and video wall area discussing engineering project development, scheduling, problem solving and measureable results. (Photos attached)

IV. Traffic Management Operations Division Response Information
Some of the vital statistics we address each month

1. **Number of Traffic Counts Scheduled/Completed – 7/7**
   - *In addition, we collected turning movement counts at 12 intersections*

2. **Number of Hits on the Traffic Data Database (**at www.VBgov.com/TCDS**)**
   - *270 hits for the month of January 2011*
   - *2697 hits since program inception (July 2009)*

3. **Number of Utility Locate Tickets (Miss Utility) Received/Checked/Marked – 2281/173/133**

4. **Number of Traffic Signal Preventive Maintenance Actions completed – 41**

5. **Number of Traffic Signal Work Orders Received - 125**

6. **Number of Traffic Sign Work Orders Completed – 420**

Attachment 7-A

Boy Scout Troop 179 at the Traffic Management Center

Done January 9, 2011

Engineering Merit Badge
Troop 179

What is Engineering?

- Engineering is the application of science and mathematics to improve society

- Engineers exist to design, construct, operate, or maintain the systems and devices that drive our society, making them as effective and efficient as possible

- The bottom line: engineering is problem solving

Engineering is the art or science of making practical.
~ Samuel C. Florman

February-2011

I. <u>*Traffic Signal Retiming Accomplished/Installed/Verified*</u>
   Signal corridor retiming was accomplished along the following corridors:

   1. *Northampton Boulevard*
   2. *Birdneck Road*
   3. *Princess Anne Road (upper region)*
   4. *Independence Boulevard (North)*

II. <u>*Significant Meeting Hosted or Attended*</u>
   1. <u>*February 24, 2011 Resort Advisory Commission (Transportation Subcommittee)*</u>
      Public Works Project Management , Traffic Management Operations, and Traffic Engineering staff met with the Commission members to solicit their input on traffic signal pole designs to be used in the resort area.

   2. <u>*February 8, 2011 Hampton Roads Transportation Operations (HRTO) Group*</u>
      This is a bi-monthly meeting of all the regional cities and counties to discuss ITS related technologies and the events that could be utilized within the Hampton Roads area.

      The topics discussed at this meeting included:
         - *A presentation on video collection of traffic volume and intersection turning movement count data*
         - *Vendor proposal for a centralized regional web-based traffic count database*
         - *A presentation on the pending VDOT Statewide RFP for Video Hosting*

III. <u>*Traffic Management Operations Division Response Information*</u>
   Some of the vital statistics we address each month

   1. ***Number of Traffic Counts Scheduled/Completed – 7/7***
      - ***In addition, we collected turning movement counts at 14 intersections***

   2. ***Number of Hits on the Traffic Data Database** (at www.VBgov.com/TCDS)*
      - *258 hits for the month of February 2011*
      - *2955 hits since program inception (July 2009)*

   3. ***Number of Utility Locate Tickets (Miss Utility) Received/Checked/Marked – 2176/176/147***

   4. ***Number of Traffic Signal Preventive Maintenance Actions completed – 50***

   5. ***Number of Traffic Signal Work Orders Received - 146***

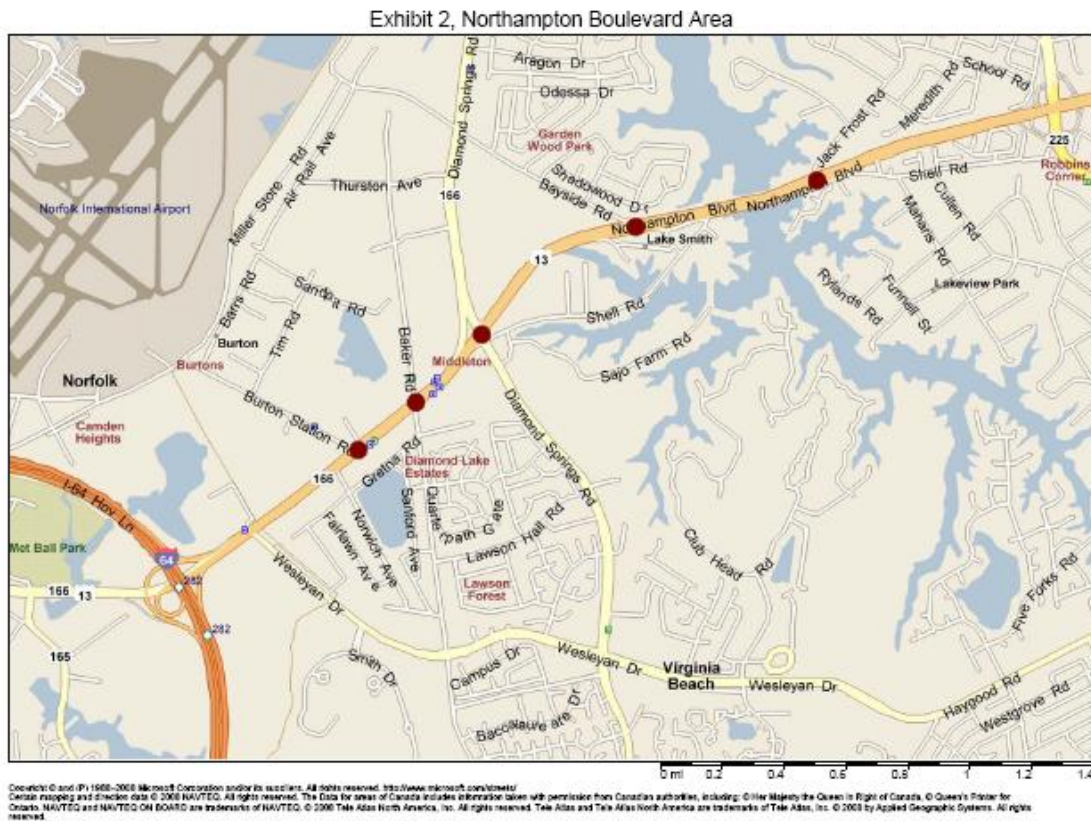   6. ***Number of Traffic Sign Work Orders Completed – 547***

Attachment 7-B

Traffic Signal Retiming Corridors

Northampton Boulevard Area Retiming Summary

Northampton Boulevard corridor is one of the busiest in the city, averaging between 44,200 to 63,200 vehicles per day.

Regional Collaboration
Northampton Boulevard traverses the northern sectors of Norfolk and Virginia Beach. This retiming effort was coordinated with the City of Norfolk Smart Traffic Center in an effort to ensure efficient traffic flow across our common jurisdictional boundaries.

Exhibit 2, Northampton Boulevard Area

The day plans and timing patterns for signals to the west on Princess Anne Road / Northampton Boulevard in the City of Norfolk were updated to provide for coordination with the Northampton Boulevard signals in the City of Virginia Beach

Along Princess Anne Road / Northampton Boulevard, travel time between both Kilmer Lane or I-64 Westbound Off-ramps and Diamond Springs Road decreased during all periods. For the AM and PM periods, between Kilmer Lane and Diamond Springs Road, in the eastbound direction, delay decreased 43 – 69%, saving drivers 1.8 – 2.2 minutes of travel time. In the westbound direction, delay decreased 33 – 82%, saving drivers between1.1 – 2.1minutes of travel time. For all other time periods, between I-64 Westbound Off-ramps and Diamond Springs Road, in the eastbound direction, delay decreased 82 – 85%, saving drivers 0.8 – 1.2 minutes of travel time. In the westbound direction, delay decreased 86 – 93%, saving drivers between 0.7 – 1.1 minutes of travel time.

Attachment 7-B

Traffic Signal Retiming Corridors

Princess Anne Road Upper Implementation

Exhibit 2, Princess Anne - Upper Area

Birdneck Road Implementation

Exhibit 2, Birdneck Road Area

Traffic Signal Retiming Corridors

Independence Boulevard (North) Implementation

Exhibit 2, North Independence Area